

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed December 3, 2003, has been received and reviewed. Claims 10 through 20 and 59 through 66 are currently pending in the application. Claims 15, 19 and 20 have been objected to as being dependent upon a canceled base claim, but the indication of allowable subject matter in such claims is noted with appreciation. Applicant has amended claims 15, 19, and 20 and respectfully requests reconsideration of the application as amended herein.

Information Disclosure Statement(s)

Applicant notes that Information Disclosure Statements herein were sent for filing on May 1, 2003, and November 10, 2003, and notes that no copy of the PTO-1449's was returned with the outstanding Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests that the information cited on the PTO-1449's be made of record herein.

Objections to Claims 15, 19 and 20/Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 15, 19 and 20 stand objected to as being dependent upon a canceled base claim, but are indicated to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if placed in appropriate independent form.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

The amendments to claims 15, 19 and 20 above should be entered by the Examiner because the amendments are supported by the as-filed specification and drawings and do not add any new matter to the application.

CONCLUSION

Claims 10-20 and 59-66 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, he is respectfully invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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